

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 171

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ethel Barnes Williams Warner on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Ethel Barnes Williams Warner will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 14, 2007, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Ethel Barnes was born and raised in Cottontown, where her family ran a sheep farm until they moved and her father went to work at a sawmill; after ten years of schooling, she moved to Nashville to work at the hosiery mill; and

WHEREAS, through her brother Bill, the then-Miss Barnes met Virgil Smith Williams, who was to become her husband soon after in an interesting tale of teenage craftiness; and

WHEREAS, after being forbidden by her mother to see Mr. Williams on Wednesday nights, the sixteen-year-old Miss Barnes accompanied him to the Justice of the Peace on June 30, 1923; and

WHEREAS, even after being told the Justice was sick and could not marry them that day, the young couple persisted until the Justice gave in, put on a bathrobe, and pronounced them man and wife in their car with the motor running the entire time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams went on to work at Standard Candy Company; Mrs. Williams stayed home with their children until the youngest was eleven years old, then she went to work at the same company, from which they both retired in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the couple's blessed union eventually produced four children, Elizabeth, Leon, Gene, and Joyce Ann; ten grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; and three great-

great grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. Williams enjoyed each other's loving companionship until his death in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Warner was blessed with love again at the age of seventy-five, when she married Howard Warner; their marriage was a comfort to them both until his death three years later; and

WHEREAS, as Mrs. Warner approaches her eleventh decade, she is still a pillar of the Maybelle Carter Retirement Center community as its oldest and longest-dwelling resident; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ethel Barnes Williams Warner on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued peace, health, and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.